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Initiative and Referendum.

Mr. Bryan likes his new toy—new to him. He is preaching to the Nutmegs the gospel of the initiative and referendum. His language is characteristically ardent:

"Initiative and referendum are the only way to popular government. The man who attacks the theory of it is guilty of treason."

A new definition of treason, but Mr. Bryan has done with government under the Constitution, done with the Constitution as it stands. The whole theory and practice of the Federal Government will have to be changed radically if his programme is to prevail. He regards the representative as "a necessary evil." He wants immediate direct popular government. How government by petition and town meeting is to apply to the whole United States he doesn't explain. What works well in Toad Hill may be a little unsuited for the affairs of eighty millions. But Mr. Bryan will attend to that with this abracadabra—and these words of power, with this elixir of life and philosopher's stone and grand secret. We don't doubt that he is as wise as he ever was. We merely mention that this imported Swiss notion of his can't be used so far as Federal matters are concerned until the Constitution has been thoroughly reorganized and made thoroughly popular.

For Mr. Bryan is still a Middle of the Road Populist; and if he is any kind of Democrat he is a Social Democrat. In 1900, the national platform of the Social Democrats anticipated Mr. Bryan not only in the "demand" for the public ownership of railroads, telegraphs and telephones, but in the "demand" for the adoption of the initiative and referendum. By 1906, perhaps Mr. Bryan, with his genius for assimilation, will be howling with the Social Democrats for "the cooperative commonwealth."

Seven years ago next month the Middle of the Road Populists met at Cincinnati and nominated WHITTON BARKER for President and IGNATIUS DONNELLY for Vice-President. These Middle of the Roaders demanded the initiative and referendum. They howled for "the public ownership and operation of those means of communication, transportation and production, such as the people may elect"; also for the election of President, Vice-President, Federal Judges and United States Senators by direct vote of the people. Mr. Bryan is "with" these irreconcilables as to the election of Federal Judges and Senators. Presumably his views of direct popular government will make him favor the direct election of President and Vice-President.

In 1904 the Socialists who rallied around our venerated friend DENS cried for "popular government, including initiative and referendum, proportional representation and the recall of public officers." In the same year was heard the voice of the Populists, who nominated TOM WATSON and TOM TIMBLE:

"As a means of placing all public questions directly under the control of the people we demand that legal provision be made under which the people may exercise the initiative and referendum and proportional representation and direct vote for all public officers, with the right of recall."

Our excellent friends the Drys, political philosophers of the eclectic school, enrich their platforms with this boon. It will be seen that Mr. Bryan is in picturesque, if not democratic, company.

Ten or fifteen years ago some Western poet, unknown, but a bard with bowels, paid this tribute to what was then an obscure patent medicine for the salvation of the country:

"Our evils it will end 'em,
Our troubles it will mend 'em,
Our rights it will defend 'em,
Initiative and referendum!"

Who would have thought in those days of its decision that Mr. BRYAN would snatch this "principle" from the hands of Social Democrats and his fellow Populists and try to make it—next to Government ownership of railroads—the cornerstone of the creed which he seeks to impose upon the Democracy?

Why Not Publish the Scores?

Rear Admiral EVANS is enthusiastic about the gun practice of the powerful Atlantic fleet which he commands, but he is not allowed by the Navy Department to give out the scores. They must be exceptionally brilliant, for we read that the least improvement by any ship at the Guantanamo range was seventeen per cent. compared with the last year's totals, and that on one ship the improvement was one hundred per cent., although five feet had been out from the top of the target, which previously had been seventeen feet high by twenty-one feet wide. The range was two thousand yards, and the firing was done as each ship steamed by at a speed of ten knots. All that we know about the competition this year, Secretary MITCHELL having enjoined the utmost secrecy, is that the battleship Illinois carried off the honors. And we are told:

"Officers stationed at Washington are confident there is no navy in the world that, ship for ship, can shoot as straight and as fast as the American navy."

This we are all ready to believe, for we have been told repeatedly that no men behind the guns shoot as well as our men. The Britishers on the China station sometimes claim a record, but it is received with profound scepticism, or dismissed

with the explanation that ten hits out of twelve shots under the English rules is not as good a performance as one of our records, because the English target conditions are more favorable to high scores than the American test. We allow that the British gunners may be a fair second to ours, but we have a rather poor opinion of the marksmanship of the Japanese, Germans and French.

Assuming that our gunners are the best in the world, just as our riflemen are the best, would it not be as well to publish their scores to the world as to conceal them by official order? We are told in Presidential messages that the surest guaranty of peace is a fleet of first class battleships, and plenty of them. Obviously that guaranty would become stronger if other nations knew that our gunners were the champion marksmen of the world. A record with the twelve inch gun would be particularly impressive, for it would mean, other things being equal, that it would be folly for a nation of equal naval strength and a continuous inferior record at the targets to force a war upon the United States, and a nation with a stronger navy on paper might well hesitate to try conclusions with our navy. It is true that nations unequally matched have often made war upon each other, but can it be denied that the inclination of an inferior nation is to avoid war in a period when naval warfare is becoming more and more scientific?

Arbitration is helpful in preventing war, but after all we have not as much faith in its efficacy as in thick armor, big guns and straight shooting men behind the guns. Then why make a dark closet secret of their skill? Really this question of suppressing target scores might have been brought up with good results by a practical delegate at Mr. ANDREW CARNEGIE'S congress, for every little helps.

The New British Budget.

There were many reasons why the budget for the fiscal year 1907-08, which on April 18 was submitted to the House of Commons by Mr. ASQUITH, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was awaited with peculiar interest. It is really the first Liberal budget presented since 1895, for that of last year was practically a legacy from the Balfour Government. Then, too, each of the three classes of taxpayers—the rich, the earners of moderate incomes and the relatively poor—hoped that its burdens would be diminished, those of the first through a curtailment of the death duty, those of the second through preferential treatment in the incidence of the income tax, and those of the third through a reduction of indirect taxation and the immediate provision of old age pensions. The first and third classes, as we shall see, have reason to feel acutely disappointed, the middle class alone finding its hopes fulfilled.

The prosperity enjoyed by the United Kingdom during the last twelvemonth is attested by the fact that instead of the estimated deficit of \$300,000 for the fiscal year 1906-07 there is a surplus of nearly \$27,000,000. The surplus would have been even larger but for the notable decline in the revenue from alcoholic beverages, which has gone on since 1899, and has not yet been arrested. The revenue from stamps also has fallen off in consequence of the slackness of operations on the Stock Exchange, and the fact that the telephone is superseding the use of the mails. These losses were more than made up, however, by unanticipated death duties and by increased receipts from the coal duty and the mint. The surplus for the fiscal year 1907-08 is now estimated at \$17,185,000, but is likely to be considerably greater if British industry and trade continue to flourish.

Few persons on this side of the Atlantic are aware of the magnitude of the income drawn by the British Exchequer from the death duty instituted by Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT in 1895. The aggregate sum derived from this source during the last year was \$95,000,000, and during the twelve years for which the inheritance tax has been operative it has yielded \$1,005,000,000. Even the present death duty, which levies 10 per cent. on the net estate left by very wealthy men, proved so embarrassing to the present Duke of Rutland that on his father's death last year he had to close his principal residence. Instead of reducing, however, the inheritance tax on the estates of very rich men, Mr. ASQUITH proposes to increase it. Hereafter estates valued at \$750,000 and up to \$5,000,000 will pay 10 per cent., but on estates of \$10,000,000 14 per cent. will be levied on the second \$5,000,000, while on estates of \$15,000,000 or more 10 per cent. will be levied on the first \$5,000,000 and 15 per cent. on every other five millions. It is obvious that the imposition of this tax would cause a great shrinkage in such estates as those of the Duke of WESTMINSTER, the Duke of BEDFORD, the Duke of PORTLAND and particularly Mr. WILLIAM WARDLAW ASTOR.

To the disgust of that large class of the British population which is exempted from the payment of an income tax, there is to be no reduction of indirect taxation. What one of their chief spokesmen, Mr. KEIR HARDE, especially remarks, however, is Mr. ASQUITH'S failure to outline the expected scheme of old age pensions, or even to name the precise time during the existence of the present Parliament when such a scheme will be proposed. He has agreed, however, to set aside next year \$7,500,000 as the nucleus of a fund for old age pensions, to which will be added \$2,750,000 of yet uncollected arrears of this year's income tax. As the national debt will in the course of the coming twelvemonth be reduced by \$85,000,000 the Chancellor of the Exchequer expresses the hope that larger additions may be made hereafter to the fund for old age pensions. He declares, moreover, that in the sphere of finance the Government regards old age pensions as the most urgent of all the demands for social reform. Such assurances do not satisfy the representatives of labor, who declare the budget "brutal."

The only persons who apparently are content with Mr. ASQUITH'S fiscal programme are those whose incomes are moderate and earned. There is to be no change in the income tax so far as inherited or otherwise unearned incomes

are concerned, but earned incomes of less than \$10,000 a year will hereafter pay an income tax less by six cents on the pound sterling than that now imposed. It will be made compulsory, however, on every one receiving an income tax form to make a return, and the penalties for evasion are to be increased.

Owing to the overwhelming majority of the Liberals in the House of Commons it is improbable that any material changes in Mr. ASQUITH'S budget will be made.

Investigating President Ahearn.

Neither Governor HUGHES nor Corporation Counsel ELLISON agrees with the lawyers employed by President AHEARN of the Borough of Manhattan in the opinion that the Commissioners of Accounts have no authority to investigate his office by summoning employees and compelling them to answer questions. Hitherto the power of the Commissioners has not been questioned. In Mayor STROUX'S term they overhauled one county office, and under Mayor VAN WYCK they assisted the Finance Department in one of its rows with the Board of Education. The Commissioners obtain whatever authority they may have from Section 119 of the Charter:

"The Mayor shall appoint and remove at pleasure two persons who shall be Commissioners of Accounts, one of whom shall be a certified public accountant. . . . They shall also make such special examinations of the accounts and methods of the departments and offices of the city . . . as the Mayor may from time to time direct, and such other examinations as the said commissioners may deem for the best interests of the city. . . . For the purpose of ascertaining facts in connection with such examinations they shall have full power to compel the attendance of witnesses, to administer oaths and to examine such persons as they may deem necessary."

It is difficult to see on what reasonable ground it can be held that the Commissioners are without power over a Borough President and all his subordinates. It will hardly be asserted that the presidency of a borough is not a city office, and the language of the Charter is not obscure in enumerating the powers of the Commissioners. The objection that the proposed investigation is a fishing expedition does not seem to have much weight. The popular name for the Commissioners is "the Mayor's detectives," and in the past they have been assigned to numerous tasks which were carried out without definite leads, but merely to unearth whatever might be found. That the Corporation Counsel has admitted that the result of an investigation might be a request to the Governor to remove Mr. AHEARN from office—an admission of which Mr. AHEARN'S counsel has made much—does not affect the powers of the Commissioners either.

The Governor may remove a Borough President in the manner provided in the Constitution for the removal of a Sheriff, and the fact that he might be asked to exercise the power because of something disclosed by the Commissioners of Accounts would not tie the hands of those officers. The Governor has the same power of removal over the Mayor. Would Mr. AHEARN assert that this fact estopped the Comptroller, for instance, from disclosing irregularities in the office of the city's chief executive officer?

Mr. Gompers's Opportunity.

It is given to few men to enjoy such an opportunity as seems likely to knock at the door of Mr. SAMUEL GOMPERS within the next few weeks. President ROOSEVELT, ANDREW CARNEGIE and other statesmen and philanthropists have addressed the peace conference in words of eloquence. That they are sincere no one can deny. Given the power, they would usher in the régime of brotherly love. But they can only plead by precept or through the moving agency of high example. Vast possibilities are within their reach, no doubt. They can do much to fan or quench the flames that lead to massacre and barbarism. Nevertheless it is Mr. SAMUEL GOMPERS, and he alone in all that bright galaxy of philanthropists, who can by a determined exercise of authority unleash the dogs of war or hold them quiet in their kennels.

Mr. SAMUEL GOMPERS commands a great army—an army larger than either Russia or Japan put into active service four years ago. He commands those untold thousands as absolutely as any famous chieftain ever did his followers. It is true that he does not take the field in person. He does not figure in the front of glittering battalions or plan with gigantic circumnavigations the movement of innumerable cohorts and the shock of dreadful impacts. Mr. GOMPERS wears no feathers or gold lace. It is a fact, notwithstanding, that thousands upon thousands of armed and homicidal men obey his slightest signal. He can uphold our civilization or at his pleasure speed the avalanche of savagery. At his dictation and by his contrivance peace, order and good will among men may be established in this country from one ocean to the other and from the Lakes to the Caribbean Sea. He can restore the personal liberty of millions of American citizens, redeem the pledges of the Fathers, rescue the Declaration of Independence from dishonor and contempt, and make the United States in fact what it has been for many sad and miserable years in theory only, the land of the free and the home of the brave.

According to all accounts and indications Opportunity is advancing upon Mr. GOMPERS with giant strides. Throughout the land there is the foreboding murmur of a far reaching strike. Countless thousands of men are to quit work, abandon the enterprises in which they are engaged and with the wage whereof they have been maintaining innumerable wives and helpless children. Mr. GOMPERS, we are told, encourages them herein and appeals to still other thousands to resign employment and emolument by way of "sympathy." It is clearly the right of the workman to choose for himself. This presumably is a free country and no one can be compelled to labor against his will and preference. Up to this point Mr. GOMPERS and his followers occupy an unassailable position. But when these walk out, in pursuance of their undoubted privilege, and others willing to work, anxious to earn an honest livelihood and to support dependent families—when the latter appear upon the scene, applying for occupations which those others have

voluntarily relinquished and claiming a privilege guaranteed them by the founders of the Republic—what will Mr. SAMUEL GOMPERS do?

Here is Opportunity with glowing eyes, and prayerful invitation in both hands. If Mr. GOMPERS wants peace at home, and if his solicitudes be not wholly concentrated upon foreign lands and in altogether academic theories, he has at his disposal the occasion for a splendid and memorable demonstration. He has only to say the word. He can reinstate the rights and the brotherhood of man. He can forbid violence, insure order and set righteousness and civilization upon a long vacant throne.

What more can Mr. GOMPERS ask for his glory and his immortality? In a speech to the conference the other day he said that courage was needed in these times by those who stood for peace. Now comes to him the offer of the double crown of Courage and Beneficence!

The Haytian navy is not as black as it is painted; it is usually commanded by a rough and ready Britisher, perhaps a Scot with a burr; and the Vice-Admiral that Hayti sends to Jamestown will probably be an old salt whom Rear Admiral ROSLEY D. EVANS will find congenial. The Haytian Admiral is not likely to dispute precedence with anybody.

At last accounts the Haytian navy consisted of a flotilla of cruisers. There was the third class cruiser Crote-A-Pierrot, 940 tons, carrying "one 6.5 inch De Bange gun, one 4.7 inch ditto, four 4 inch ditto, six light guns," the gunboat Capitan-La-Mort, the Toussein L'Ouverture and the Dessalines, vessels well named but not always in commission; the sloopa 1804 and St. Michael, and the gun vessel 23 of December. The Haytian navy is not a fixed quantity; the engineer force varies, and the supply of enlisted men goes up and down, generally down. The story that the Government may have to borrow a ship to put a Vice-Admiral on is plausible, and it would be a friendly act of the United States to lend Hayti the Monongahela or the Arcturion for the occasion.

For fifty-five Carnegie libraries sites the city has paid \$2,053,799.15. It was estimated in 1902 that the seventy-eight parcels of real estate needed could be bought for \$2,000,000. There remain twenty-three sites to be purchased, and these will cost at the present real estate values \$859,088.87.

The Hon. JAMES WOLCOTT WADSWORTH, late a Representative in Congress from the Genesee region, permits himself to use unseemly and contumelious language about the President. Mr. ROOSEVELT has removed or called for the resignation of certain Federal officeholders in the district formerly represented by Mr. WADSWORTH. Yet statesman, the bitterness of whose words is too keen to be reproduced in full, emits this plaint in criticism:

"President ROOSEVELT'S removal of certain Federal officeholders in western New York State is such a flagrant violation of the precepts he has always laid down about his efficient officers in the public service that I am led to believe that he was merely faking when he announced these lofty principles."

This is unjust. It shows an entire misapprehension of Mr. ROOSEVELT'S position. His speaker knows no brother who has not yet learned that the friends of a foe of Mr. ROOSEVELT must be made to suffer for the public good. Such men cannot be efficient. They are untrue to the loftiest of all principles, allegiance to The Man Who is Always Right.

In the present perplexing conditions no one could possibly be as sane as FAIRBANKS manages to look.

Two Louisiana deputy sheriffs have been arrested on a charge of manslaughter growing out of their failure to save a prisoner from a mob. If they are convicted it is likely that other peace officers in the State will find their resources for protecting prisoners suddenly enlarged. Nothing more effectively incites a public official to enthusiastic performance of his duty than the probability that he will go to jail if he neglects that duty.

The Raid on Concealed Weapons.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—You did not answer the first and most vital question in my letter of yesterday. Was the law under which men have been held up at the point of a pistol during the last few days in the search for concealed weapons written or unwritten? If the former, where and when was it enacted? If the latter, what are we wandering?

Assuming for the sake of argument that a number of the police took up to get together and raised sufficient money to sue Gen. Bingham, what are the chances of their receiving decent treatment at court, to say nothing of a fair trial?

The law is written, and is in Section 315 of the laws of the State of New York as amended.

The King's Full Title.

From the London Standard.

The full title of Chulalongkorn, King of Siam, was: "Most high, illustrious, inviolable and powerful Monarch, crowned with ten golden crowns, each adorned with nine species of precious gems, greatest and most divine master of all lands by the sun, greatest of lords, whose palace is of gold and gems, divine master of the golden throne, and of the white and red elephants, Sovereign god of the nine kinds of gods, King who is like unto the sun at its zenith and like the full moon, King whose palace is more dazzling than the orb of the morning, King who is above all emperors, monarchs and potentates of the universe, from the rising to the setting sun."

The Forthcoming Fourth.

Yes, Independence Day, my boy,
Will surely come this year,
And you shall have your share of joy,
Of patriotic cheer.

I'll bring you home a brand new sash,
And sign you with red ink to get together,
And on the millpond you shall play
With all your little mates.

And, as with boyish glee you run
And glide upon the sash,
Remember how George Washington
Once crossed the Delaware.

And over on the vacant ground
A fort of snow we'll plan,
And I will be the Hessian band
And you the Minute Men.

We'll wallow deeply in the snow
And think of "Folly Forge,"
The witty walloping and woe
Of the Immortal George.

And we must not forget, my son,
A duty that we owe:
Before the glorious day is done
We'll to the village go.

And, gathered snugly round the red
Hot logs of oak and pine,
We'll hear the Declaration read
In the basement of the church.

MR. RYAN'S AFRICAN CONCESSIONS.

Regarded in Europe as Evidence of Our Increasing International Influence.

BRUSSELS, April 12.—A prominent banker and capitalist of Paris, one of the group interested in the exploitation of the French African colonies, stated to the correspondent of THE SUN that the entrance of Mr. Thomas F. Ryan and his associates into the field of African development was regarded as one of the most important movements in many years.

"Although there is some of the usual talk about the 'Yankee invasion,'" he said, "there are some solid reasons why European investors in foreign countries are glad of this movement. For one thing, we regard it as evidence of confidence in the commercial and financial stability of our colonies. Then, too, it affords us the opportunity to demonstrate to the Americans the need of reliable and responsible government in the undeveloped parts of the world where European or American capital may be invested."

"For example, when Americans have substantial investments in any of our African colonies they can better appreciate our desire for responsible and conservative government in South America, where some of us have very large interests. We know that the Americans have no political interests in Africa, so that their commercial interests in that continent will stand unrelated to the European Powers exactly as our commercial interests across the Atlantic are related to American Powers. Hence we feel that the Ryan movement toward Africa gives us somewhat of a guarantee of a substantial nature for fair play all around."

An English capitalist largely interested in Africa when told the views of the Paris financier practically agreed with him. "We have found Americans very useful to us in South Africa," he said, "especially such men as John Hays Hammond and Gardner Williams. The Americans have a vast territorial expanse for studying economic geological questions not possessed by any European Power at home, and so they are especially competent to help discover the resources of Africa. It is likely that American investments in the Congo will lead to conservation of government and improvement in many ways. Some Englishmen have professed to see in this movement only a clever ruse of King Leopold to checkmate possible British hostility, but it is absurd to suppose that the American Government will allow itself to become entangled in African affairs because of the interests of a few capitalists. As a matter of fact, there is much British capital interested in the richest mineral portion of the Congo, and our interests will probably be identical with those of the Americans as far as our relations to the Congo Government are concerned."

It is expected in Brussels that the American expedition will reach the interior of Africa about the first of June. The expedition in charge of Mr. Verner will begin development of work immediately, a steamer having been obtained for its use, and a new town is to be laid off somewhere near Stanley Pool. The members of this expedition are Messrs. Pope and Andrews, Americans, and Bertrand and DeJahr, Belgians, besides others to follow soon. The Geological and Mineralogical Survey under S. H. Ball, late of the United States Geological Survey, has been named as expeditionary chief. Dr. Dorsey Mohun, formerly of the United States Navy and for several years an officer in the Congo Government. The latter expedition will be occupied at first in general reconnaissance work, to prepare for actual exploitation later.

A JOIT FROM FRANCE.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The Government of France is showing some disposition to disturb the existing trade relations between that country and the United States. It is reported that this course is due primarily to the failure of our Congress thus far to take action upon the reciprocity treaty signed by John A. Kasson and Jules Cambon in July, 1896. If that is the case it can only be said that the French mind has been slow in grasping the fact that the Casson-Cambon convention was some time ago immured and buried with others of its kind in a crypt provided for the remains of dead treaties. It is more probable that France has an eye on our negotiations with Germany and fears that the outcome of the affair may be prejudicial to her interests. It is to be regretted that she has chosen Porto Rico as the scene of one of her points of attack.

Rico adopted the dual tariff system in 1892. Pursuant to section 3 of the tariff act of 1897 President McKinley, on May 30, 1898, gave effect to the present arrangement under which there is a mutual exchange of limited concessions. Probably with the hope of frightening us into some more comprehensive arrangement which would place her on at least an equal footing with Germany, France is making a little display of a work in progress. Under our present system she has just as Germany has, a little stronger hand than ours. We have no adequate basis for trading propositions and we have no means of retaliation. If we used the dual tariff system, as France and Germany do, we should hold the master cards. The condition is not yet serious, but it is probable that ere long we shall find it advisable to adopt the dual system now generally employed by other lands.

Our trade with France during the calendar year 1906 consisted of exports, \$103,623,431, and of imports, \$119,800,329. An excess of \$21,000,000 in exports and \$47,000,000 in imports since 1900. About two-thirds of our exports are represented by raw cotton, copper and oil. An important part of the remainder is composed of raw materials, which France buys because she wants them and can obtain them to better advantage from us than from any other country. Her purchases of food supplies are comparatively unimportant, and her purchases of manufactured goods are not extensive. We buy from France something like \$40,000,000 worth a year of silks, wines, furs, gems and art works. We bought last year \$14,000,000 worth of cotton laces, edgings, embroideries, &c. So far as the general trade is concerned it might be said that we buy luxuries from France, while she buys necessities from us.

We are not in any of our four a trade war with France; but, coming on the heels of the German matter, her gentle notice to us carries at least a suggestion to such of our lawmakers as take any interest in overseas trade.

The Horseshoe Over the Door.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—I had a draughtman working for me some time ago who kept horseshoe over his table this way: I told him it was wrong and that his luck would run out. Shortly afterward his house and contents were destroyed by fire. No insurance. He told me I was right, and turned the shoe over. Doesn't this incident prove how the shoe should be turned?

NEW YORK, April 12. MIDDLEBORO.

A Historical Comparison.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The mind of President Roosevelt is like the mind of Napoleon, for he is not to let it know no rest save change in occupation.

AUTUMN, April 12. OBSERVER.

FIELD AND SIEGE GUNS.

What the Powers are Doing to Increase Ranges and Rapidity of Fire.

In its development the infantry rifle or the light machine gun has been the most rapid of arms, and it is interesting to note the steps in the process in order to determine the further improvements desirable in these arms of the service, especially the artillery gun.

The earlier fighting of the Russo-Japanese war in general character, but the more portable weapon soon asserted its superiority and became the model for the field gun.

In adopting percussion firing, rifling of the bore, breech loading, metallic cartridge cases, reduction of calibre, rapidity of fire, magazine loading and automatic mechanisms, the musket outstripped the field gun, and the field gun has not yet caught up with it. But the time has come when the artillery piece, reaching the degree of perfection attained by the rifle.

The similarity in the tactical uses of the weapons is the explanation of their similarity of development, but as the ultimate purpose is the same, namely, to destroy the live material of the enemy, the difference being merely that the field gun is to be used at longer ranges.

The field gun has been hampered by its dependence on single shots, a disadvantage which there was an endeavor to overcome by means of the shower of bullets from shrapnel, but it is difficult to place shrapnel where it should be effective while against modern armor-plated field guns it is entirely powerless. Hence, artillerymen have again reverted to the percussion shell, but the trouble is to get a sufficient number of hits.

Recent wars have shown that, even with superiority of artillery, hours of percussion fire alone will not silence the enemy's batteries unless the mass of shots is so great as to cause demoralization. It is the high explosive shell that affords the most effective means of rapid fire. After getting the range the pouring in of 200 or 300 shots in five or six minutes will produce an effect which no human nerves can stand.

There has been much said about covered positions and indirect fire, but the spirit of the offensive demands clear view and direct fire; and just as the infantry or cavalry must expose itself to obtain victory and depend on its own strength for its best protection, so too must the artillery.

If the field artillery depends too much on covered positions the infantry will have to suffer, because the field artillery will not effectively perform its function of preparation for the infantry assault.

The high explosive combined shrapnel and shell, as it is prepared for modern field artillery, is the best solution of the problem, and a modern field gun is now being constructed on a level with the infantry rifle, and up to its work in battle.

The modern field gun, with its spade on the trail to hold it in place and its recoil cylinder to absorb the shock of the gun tube, without disturbing the position of the gun on the ground, so as to enable it to retain its aim on any target for any number of shots, has made it a rapid fire piece, especially as it is now being constructed with a gun tube that can be raised into the firing position after each shot.

The United States field artillery has a gun which is second to none in the armies of the world. Germany is just completing her armament in this respect. In order to give her field artillery opportunity to have its practice firing in all kinds of country, Germany has just ordered that the artillery regiments shall conduct practice firing every year. There are now fourteen practice grounds for the field artillery, and to each two or three regiments are assigned every year.

Germany has effected her rearmament in field artillery. France is considering whether her ninety-two guns to the army corps can meet on an equal footing the 144 of a German army corps, especially as the Russo-Japanese war has indicated the need of a more powerful gun. The French are each army corps, leaving plenty of room for more artillery. The French have decided to solve the problem not by increasing the number of guns in a battery from four to six guns, but by increasing the number of batteries. To obtain the proper number of men France is seriously considering the reduction of her cavalry.

Nearly all nations have now adopted the recoil cylinder and recoil system (in which the gun itself recoils in a cradle for the field artillery; and now it is generally proposed to adopt the same system for field artillery and mountain guns. The United States already has this material, and Germany has decided on the system for its howitzers, but most of its mountain artillery is still of the old pattern.

France, too, has obsolete howitzers and mountain artillery, but is considering the question of a new mountain gun. A gun is now being tried and is reported ready for adoption. Its calibre is 2.96 inches, its maximum range 5,000 yards, and it is carried complete on five animals, the heaviest load on each being about 220 pounds. It has no shield, but one can be fitted later.

The mechanism is peculiar in that the shot is fired while the tube is at its maximum velocity moving forward (after recoil), and is counter recoil springs into the loading position, and the force of recoil is thus partially used up in overcoming the forward movement of the gun. In other words, the forward movement of the gun to lessen the force of recoil, and thus reduces the total amount of recoil, a very important point in a gun to be first in mountainous country, where very high elevations are often necessary.

In fact, it has been found difficult to construct gun carriages for firing at very high elevations, because of the danger that the great recoil at such elevations will cause the gun to strike the ground in the rear.

The heavy artillery position gun or field artillery as well as the regular siege artillery, has been developed in almost every army until to-day there is unanimity of opinion on the subject, and nearly all armies use modern armament of this kind.

France, however, is still behindhand. Not many years ago, when she adopted her 4.72 inch short gun, she was in advance of the world's armament, but to-day that piece is obsolete. However, she has lessened the force of recoil and protective shield, has been constructed, and is to be adopted, but mainly as a siege gun. There appears to be a tendency in France to limit the two guns to a battery hereafter, for both sides of the world are now enormous supply of ammunition required by modern field guns would appear to favor this, inasmuch as the two guns with modern appliances can fire as fast as four could until the ammunition is exhausted. The latter could be better replaced, as far as their expense required in the train of the army is concerned, by the Russo-Japanese war has furnished the most recent data on the subject of naval guns, and has already caused changes in armament.

The question of battle ranges for the navy has not been settled, however, inasmuch as in the Spanish-American war the shorter ranges of 3,000 yards diminishing to 2,000 and even 1,500 yards, were used, while in the Russo-Japanese war, although on February 9, 1904, the range was more than 8,000 yards, the battleships needed to be within 10,000 yards for very long ranges, at Tsushima 20,000 yards changed his tactics and fought at 3,000 yards, to the great surprise of the Russians, who had calculated on a longer range fight.

In armament of the navy of calibre has been gradually progressing, especially